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of references relating to the subjects treated. A synopsis of the metric system, various tables, and a list of useful numbers are given on the inside cover pages. The appendix contains a list of review questions. These questions have been selected from the examination papers of schools in all parts of the country, and will serve the double purpose of providing a convenient means of review and of comparing the ability of the pupil with the accepted standard of attainment for high-school pupils. As a means of assisting the pupil to apply principles and avoid an unintelligent use of the formulae in the solution of problems, a few analytical solutions have been placed in the appendix.

The Apprentices' Course of Experimental Physics and Mechanics. By JAMES L. MAXIM. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1909. Pp. xiv+112. \$0.50.

This is a beginner's course in technical physics, entirely experimental and on a quantitative basis. It is designed to meet the requirements for the first and second-year preliminary technical examinations of the Lancashire and Cheshire Union of Institutes, the Oxford and Cambridge examinations in elementary science, and the requirements of the Board of Education for the Preliminary Certificate.

The course is divided into four sections: The first section, dealing with measurements, contains ten lessons. Section two considers, in ten lessons, the measurement of densities and the hydrostatic principles upon which their determination depends. Section three consists of eleven lessons on mechanics. The fourth section takes up heat in seven lessons. At the end of each section there is a set of questions for a written test paper and a set of exercises for a practical paper. At the end of the book there are a list of additional experiments, and several pages of examination questions. The Appendix contains a large number of useful tables.

The material of the book is condensed. The greatest accuracy and carefulness in the measurements are insisted upon. Numerous drawings, diagrams, and graphs are prescribed. The book contains a great many diagrams to illustrate apparatus and processes of measurement. The author has made no attempt to write interesting instructions or discussions, but he has compressed a great deal of useful information into a small volume, and the experiments are so clearly outlined that they will not lack interest to the earnest pupil.

The book contains no discussion of sound, light, or electricity, and hence is not adapted to the demands of the general course in American high schools; but for pupils preparing to enter a technical course in mechanics it will prove a most excellent book.

Physical Laboratory Manual for Secondary Schools. By CHARLES F. ADAMS. New York: American Book Co., 1909. Pp. 192. \$0.60.

The course is systematically arranged in seven chapters, with ten exercises on simple measurements, eight on mechanics of solids, twelve on the mechanics of fluids, eight on sound, twelve on light, nine on heat, and nineteen on magnetism and electricity. Practically every fundamental or important principle in physics is involved in one or more of the seventy-eight experiments.

Mr. Adams has put into the book not only his knowledge of the subject and

of the proper selection of material, but the fruit of his long experience in handling high-school pupils. This tells especially in the methods of presenting the work. While the book is essentially a course of quantitative experiments, it will not lack interest for the average pupil; for the simplicity of the apparatus and the explicitness of the instructions make the work of the experiments comparatively easy. The qualitative character is brought out in the full and clear discussions.

There are twenty tables of useful numbers, formulae, and physical constants in the Appendix.

DAVID A. WARD

THE MORGAN PARK ACADEMY
MORGAN PARK, ILLINOIS

History of Chemistry. Vol. I. From the Earliest Times to the Middle of the Nineteenth Century. By SIR EDWARD THORPE. New York: Putnam, 1909. Pp. xii+195. \$0.75.

This little volume contains a concise history of chemistry during the period named in the title. The separate chapters deal with the leading phases in the history of the science, such as the chemical philosophy of the ancients, alchemy, iatrochemistry, the atomic theory, the beginnings of electrochemistry, the foundations of organic chemistry, and the rise of physical chemistry. Within each chapter the treatment is largely biographical.

Many specific discoveries are mentioned, yet they are introduced with such skill that there is no feeling of overcrowding. The reader does not feel that he is wading through history, but rather that he is looking at a picture, and noting the details while keeping the whole continuously in view. The general perspective is preserved in a marvelous way, and the book constitutes by far the best brief history of chemistry in existence. Several admirable portraits, a bibliography, and an index are included.

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